LESSON 7

In this lesson we learn the formation of the noun of instrument اسمُ الآلة. It denotes the instrument for the action denoted by the verb, e.g.,

فَتَحَ 'he opened' : مِفْتاحٌ 'an instrument for onening', i.e., a key.

رَآى 'he saw' : مِرْآةٌ 'an instrument for seeing', i.e., a mirror.

وَزَنَ 'he weighed' : مِيزانٌ[1] 'an instrument of weighing', i.e., a balance.

There are three patterns of اسْمُ الآلة. These are :

a) مِفْعَالٌ (mif'âl-un), e.g., مِنْشارٌ 'a saw' (نَشَرَ he sawed), مِحْراثٌ 'a plough' (حَرَثَ he ploughed).

b) مِفْعَلٌ (mif'**al**-un), e.g., مِصْعَدٌ 'a lift' (صَعِدَ he ascended), مِثْقَبٌ 'a drill' (ثَقَبَ he drilled).

c) مِفْعَلَةٌ (mif'al**at**-un), e.g., مِكْنَسَةٌ 'a broom' (كَنَسَ he swept), مِقْلاةٌ 'a frying pan' (originally مِقْلَيَةٌ from قَلَى he fried), مِكْواةٌ 'an iron' (originally مِكْوَيَةٌ from كَوَى he ironed)[2].

1- Note that مِيزَانٌ is originally مِوْزَانٌ (miwzân→ m îzân). Arabic phonetic system does not admit of the **iw** combination. Wherever this combination occurs it is changed to **î**, i.e., the **w** is omitted and **i** gets a compensatory lengthening.

2- It should be noted that words like مقلاةٌ، مكْواةٌ are on the pattern of **mif'alah** and not **mif'al**. According to the arabic phonetic system, the combination **aya** and **awa** are changed to **â**, so **miqlayat-un** becomes **miqlât-un,** and **misfawat-un** from صَفَا يصْفو *to filter, strain* becomes **misfât-un.**

✍Exercises

1) Answer the following questions.

3) Form the nouns of instrument on the pattern of **mifʻâl**-un from the following verbs[1].

4) Form the nouns of instrument on the pattern of **mifʻal-**un from the following verbs.

5) Form the nouns of instrument on the pattern of **mifʻalat-un** from the following verbs.

6) Point out the nouns of instrument in the following *ahâdîth* and mention the pattern of each of them.

7) Point out the nouns of instrument occurring in the main lesson and mention the pattern of each of them.

8) Mention the name of each of the following derivatives.

9) Mention the plural of each of the following nouns.

1- This number is not a question.